

The regular meeting of the North Town Council was held on Monday, July 12, 2004 at 7:30 PM at the North Town Hall. Mayor Jeffcoat, all Council members, Administrator Russell Ott, and Clerk Cheryl Townsend were present. The Mayor declared a quorum, welcomed the visitors, and called the meeting to Order.

Council unanimously approved minutes of the last meeting.

During the Water & Sewer report, it was noted that the men were busy with 5 leaks and 4 sewer line problems. They also completed a number of various work orders, including filling in behind the Library, cutting grass, moved items from the bays in preparation for relocation of Town Hall, and cleaned up the streets and sidewalks again. Work was also done on the chlorinator pump at Wolfe's Crossing, and work is continuing to completely repair the system. There were no DHEC violations this month.

Mrs. Townsend gave a brief Police Report, as Chief Fallaw was tied up on a call. They handled 95 offenses, 51 traffic summons, and made 21 arrests. Mayor and Council were furnished a copy of the written report, which reports Reserve officer hours, training, etc.

No Fire Report was given.

June's financial statement and expense reports were reviewed and accepted unanimously by Council.

First reading was given to the 2004-2005 budget. Projected revenue and expenses for the General Fund are \$315,048.00. Projected revenue and expenses for the Water & Sewer Fund are \$210,400.00. Council was furnished a draft copy of the budget. A Public Hearing will be held on August 9, 2004 at 6:30 PM for public questions and/or comments. A motion to accept first reading was made by Ms. Cook, seconded by Mrs. Lane, and passed unanimously by Council.

Council then discussed the Town ball field on Baseball Drive. Mr. Drew reported that the Softball League is doing some work to the fields. They are repairing the fences. They are requesting that the Town pay the expenses for a box on the electric pole to regulate use of the lights. They will furnish the labor to install the box. Mrs. Lane asked if we have any regulations about use of the field. Mr. Drew stated he has been handling it for the last 25 years, and that some rules were written up last year. Mr. Ott stated that the Town is going to take a more pro-active role in management and regulation of the field. Mayor Jeffcoat stated he has spoken with several people about being in charge, but no one will commit to doing it. It was the opinion of Council that we need to adopt written procedures. A motion to allocate money to pay for the lock box was made by Mr. Gleaton, seconded by Ms. Cook, and passed unanimously by Council. It was

noted that the President of the Softball League, Cal Bolin, would have the key to the lock box.

It was reported that the Town would hold a public auction of surplus property on Friday, July 23, 2004 at 10 AM at the Town Hall. Items to be sold include desks, chairs, church pews, computers, bikes, and other miscellaneous items, which will not be used when renovations to Town hall are completed. The public can view the items at 8 AM. Chief Fallaw and Mrs. Townsend will conduct the auction. Notice will be published in the Times & Democrat and notices will be placed around Town. Money will be used to help pay for office equipment for the new offices.

Since the middle of June, we have had 3 tent revivals here in Town. It has raised the question that the Town needs a policy to regulate such events. Special permits have been issued in each case, with hours from 7:30 – 10:00 PM. We have had a couple of complaints about the noise from citizens. Several good points were discussed. The Town could possibly require a deposit (refundable if grounds left clean), limit the number of times a person could hold such an event, limit the number of days (nights), do background checks, release the Town from any responsibility in case of accidents, and restrict the hours the services can be held. Mrs. Lane made a motion to cover the next 30 days with a limit of 5 days (nights), and that the revival must not violate our current noise ordinance. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. The vote was 4 to 1, with Mr. Drew opposing the motion, requesting further discussion of the matter. Mr. Ott is to have a proposal prepared by the next meeting for Council's review.

The Community of Character trait for July is gratitude. Orangeburg is rated one of the top 10 counties in South Carolina in the participating Community of Character counties.

Mr. Drew stated he had the opportunity to observe our Police officers in Court recently, and was very pleased with the job they are doing.

During the Mayor's report, Mayor Jeffcoat reported that bids on renovations would be opened on July 15, 2004. He also noted we will be moving this week to 618 Main Street. He noted that we had received a copy of 321 widening plans and had one call about business license fees associated with that project. Mayor Jeffcoat also attended the County Council meeting today regarding the 1 cent sales tax project. All Mayors in attendance agreed that this had been a good thing for their Towns. In 5 years, over \$50 million was generated by this 1 cent tax. Our portion was \$520,000. He encouraged citizens to show a positive attitude and talk to neighbors and friends about passing this referendum again this fall.

During the public comment time, Mr. Buckheister, Mrs. Jamison, and Ms. Hinton had comments or questions. Each issue was addressed.

Reverend Wright closed the meeting with a prayer.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Sincerely yours,

Cheryl H. Townsend
Town Clerk
